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1. British estimate of Yugoslav vulnerability--According to US Embassy London, the British Foreign Office has gained the impression from further conversations with Yugoslav representative Milovan Djilas that the Yugoslavs do not think they will be attacked during 1951. The Embassy reports, however, that a British military estimate, which earlier considered an attack against Yugoslavia unlikely before September, is now being revised "to a somewhat earlier date." The Foreign Office now seems to think that waiting for the Yugoslavs to make a full disclosure of their arms position might cause undesirable delays in rendering them assistance. The British therefore believe it would suffice for the Yugoslavs to provide "adequately detailed" lists of their requirements, which Djilas has promised to do as soon as possible.

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EUROPE

2. FRANCE: Threat to Pleven regime--US Embassy Paris reports that although Premier Pleven no longer appears vulnerable from a foreign policy angle, speculation is rife as to whether his government can survive any of the issues due for consideration this week. The parties of the coalition are as dissatisfied as ever with each other on the issue of electoral law reform and with the government for opposing increases in expenditures which would have a large appeal to the electorate but which would upset the budget. The Embassy expresses the belief that the coalition will hold together because the government and party leaders are still seeking compromise solutions. Additional factors militating against a crisis at this time include: (a) the probability of a poor effect abroad; (b) the difficulty of forming a new government; and (c) uncertainty as to how the defeat of the

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State Dept. review completed

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government would bring about a solution of the electoral law reform issue. The Embassy warns, however, that the situation can change "almost from hour to hour" and states that the usual French impatience with any government that has been in office for over six months must also be reckoned with.

3. GERMANY: Analysis of present Communist campaign--The US High Commission in Bonn reports that West German Communists are now stepping up their campaign to capitalize on prevailing popular indecision, fear, and general desire to avoid or postpone positive steps toward joining in Western defense efforts. According to the Commission, the Communists are currently posing as public-spirited Germans working for peace and unity while hiding the fact that they are actually members of the Communist Party. Although they are having little success in influencing the major political parties, they are apparently making some headway with many neutrality, peace, youth, women's and farmers' organizations. The Commission comments that the USSR has many advantages in the propaganda battle now going on and stresses the importance of a speedy conclusion to the proposed Four-Power meeting as well as rapid progress in military and political talks affecting the relationship of the Federal Republic with the Western Powers.

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4. INDOCHINA: Obstacles to formation of Cabinet--According to US Legation Saigon, it is by no means certain that President Huu will be able to form a Cabinet in view of the differences between him and Emperor Bao Dai. The Cabinet crisis is

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assuming the form of a contest between Bao Dai as chief of state and the central government which has many implications for the future political life of Vietnam. The Legation points out that Bao Dai has already seized the initiative by proclaiming his program for social and economic reforms, thus throwing credit for the reforms to the chief of state rather than to the government. President Huu, on the other hand, has declared that the principal difficulty he is facing in persuading competent persons to join his Cabinet is their reluctance to participate in a government which reposes "on the will or whim of one man."

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